

The Physician's BOOKSHELF



CALIFORNIA MEDICINE does not review all books sent to it by the publishers. A list of new books received is carried on page 66 of the Advertising Section.

ABNORMAL SEXUAL DEVELOPMENT—A Genetic and Endocrine Approach to Differential Diagnosis—Daniel D. Federman, M.D., Assistant Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School; Associate Physician and Chief of Endocrine Unit, Massachusetts General Hospital. Illustrated by Sidney J. Rosenthal. W. B. Saunders Company, West Washington Square, Philadelphia, Pa. (19105), 1967. 206 pages, \$8.75.

This fine, thin book, carefully crafted by author, illustrator and publisher, contains a concise, readable but thorough statement of the two major aspects of abnormal sexual development, the genetic, affecting the primary development of the gonads, and the endocrine, the development of the secondary effects of gonadal (and adrenal) function.

The chapter on differential diagnosis in the infant at birth is easy to follow to a logical conclusive diagnosis, and those on problems in the pubertal "female" and "male" are rewarding. The chapter on therapy is brief but then this is a book on diagnosis. The reviewer recommends that this book be read (two evenings will do it) by all pediatricians and urologists.

FRANK HINMAN, JR., M.D.

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LABAT'S REGIONAL ANESTHESIA—Techniques and Clinical Applications—Third Edition—John Adriani, Professor of Surgery, Tulane University School of Medicine; Clinical Professor of Surgery and Pharmacology, Louisiana State University School of Medicine; Director of the Department of Anesthesiology, Charity Hospital, New Orleans. W. B. Saunders Company, West Washington Square, Philadelphia, Pa. (19105), 1967. 565 pages, \$14.00.

Few medical books applicable to modern day clinical medicine have the enduring excellence to be considered classic texts. *Labat's Regional Anesthesia* has been such a classic, and is now revised and brought up to date quite admirably by Doctor Adriani. Originally a surgeon's handbook, it contained outstanding diagrams and plates which have been retained in this new edition.

Being popular at a time when the senior members of a specialty of anesthesia were learning their basic principles, the Labat name and style are remembered fondly. If not for the death of the author, Gaston Labat, over 30 years ago, numerous revised editions would most certainly have bridged the gap since 1928.

In order to provide a "LABAT" for those who choose to have a classic, the original format and style are closely followed. In order to provide a clinically usable text, however, Doctor Adriani has attempted to delete the obsolete and add newer techniques and methods. Because of this dual purpose, the book is limited in its presentation of the step-by-step methodology the student of regional anesthesia tends to require.

On the other hand, the book is particularly easy to read. Chapters on the local anesthetic drugs, blocking of the autonomic nervous system, and non-surgical uses

of regional anesthesia are included. Little-performed blocks such as of the Gasserian ganglion are also described.

One can be a bit critical, however, of the fact that procaine is the only local anesthetic mentioned in the sections on technique. Even in the chapter on local anesthetic drugs, the importance of the newer agents is not emphasized. Proper emphasis is also lacking in the description of certain blocks. As an example, the posterior, anterior, and paratracheal approaches for a stellate ganglion block are described in equal detail with only the statement that the paratracheal approach is the most popular today. The budding regional anesthesiologist certainly could use a bit more specific direction when attempting such a block.

All considered, this volume would be a valuable addition to the library of any practitioner requiring a knowledge of regional anesthesia. The neophyte, however, might do well to read this volume, but use some other text, where specific directions and guidelines are better elucidated, when attempting any specific nerve block.

MARTIN H. LIEBOWITZ, M.D.

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GYNECOLOGIC OPERATIONS—Indications, Technic and Results—Otto Kaser, M.D., Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Frankfurt, Germany; and Franz A. Iklé, M.D., Associate Gynecological Surgeon, Canton Hospital, St. Gallen, Switzerland; English Language Edition by Albert Davis, M.D., F.R.C.S., Gynecological Surgeon, King's College Hospital Group, London, England, with Renate Marie Davis, M.B., B.S., London, England. Grune & Stratton, Inc., 381 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. (10016), 1967. 378 pages, \$37.50.

This book is well written and well illustrated. The full title is accurate and informative. That is, the authors concern themselves with some discussion of most of the gynecologic conditions which might be treated surgically. It is by no means a manual of gynecological operations. One does not find here a detailed, step-by-step description of every gynecologic operation, with each step carefully illustrated. On the other hand the authors have obviously had extensive experience and have many helpful suggestions in the text. For example, their comments concerning the usefulness of various abdominal incisions are very well taken. The suggestions that one wear magnifying lenses in performing tuboplasties and warnings about which steps in the dissections are most likely to encounter bleeding are most helpful. Many of the operations are illustrated extensively and these are very well done.

An attempt has been made to cover the field very broadly but this is not possible in a volume of this size—particularly since the authors' own interests have heavy emphasis. Thus approximately fifty pages are devoted to operations for carcinoma and these operations are de-